

LAND: 1♂ St, Branson. *reducta* Warren, 1920: 51 (as ab. of *Hesperia onopordi*); 1926: 90, pl. 27, fig. 5. 1♂ St, no locality. *retyezatensis* Warren. 1931b: 51 (as race of *Erebia epiphron transsylvanica*);

(To be concluded)

UNDUE ALARM OVER PARASITISM (HYM.) OF CLOSTERA ANACHORETA (D. & S.). — With reference to K. G. W. Evans' speculation (*Ent. Rec.* 92: 253) that the hymenopterous parasites which attack young larvae of *Leucoma salicis* (L.) and *Euproctis* species at Dungeness, Kent, may turn their attentions to *Clostera anachoreta* (D. & S.). I wish to point out that because most of the parasites of these economically important and therefore well-studied lymantriids are highly restricted in host range, this interesting possibility is unlikely to come to much. On my only visit to Dungeness (2.vii.1979) I saw *E. chrysoorrhoea* (L.) only as pupae, but I collected large samples of *L. salicis* (L.) and *E. similis* (Fuessly) larvae purely to investigate their parasites. From *L. salicis* I reared two species of Braconidae: *Apanteles melanoscelus* (Ratzeburg), known to be confined to certain Lymantriidae, and *Aleiodes pallidator* (Thunberg) which is completely host-specific to *L. salicis*. (*A. pallidator* was previously known in Britain only from the Lancashire coast (Shaw, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 113: 81) but in 1979 I reared it from *L. salicis* at Portsmouth as well as Dungeness, and it now seems likely that it will prove to be widespread among long-established populations of its host). From *E. similis* I reared two different braconids: *Apanteles inclusus* (Ratzeburg) and *Protomicroplitis connexus* (Nees), which are both restricted to *Euproctis* species. There are undoubtedly other Braconidae (*Apanteles lacteicolor* Viereck and *Meteorus versicolor* (Wesmael) spring to mind) and Ichneumonidae that attack Lymantriidae among a range of more or less hairy arboreal caterpillars which may (or not) include *C. anachoreta*, but I found no evidence that these rather less host-specialised parasites occur at Dungeness. Just as the good Mr. Evans smarts when collectors are blamed by the ignorant for despoiling animal life, I feel bound to wince on behalf of parasitic Hymenoptera when they are unfairly accused of causing real or, as in this case, imaginary declines of Lepidoptera. May I just add that I would be extremely pleased to be sent any parasites reared from *C. anachoreta* or, indeed, any other host. — DR. M. R. SHAW, Department of Natural History, Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.

UNUSUAL FEEDING OF COLEOPHORA IBIPENNELLA ZELLER. — On 10th April 1981 at Keston Common, N. W. Kent, I noticed a small case of *Coleophora ibipennella* Zell. on a male catkin of birch (*Betula pendula* Rott.). The tree was in leaf, but there were no obvious signs of feeding on the adjacent leaves. Subsequent examination under a microscope showed that the larva was feeding on the catkin, but consuming only the stamens. Feeding continued in this manner for two days, by which time the pollen had ripened, and the larva moved on to a leaf. — PAUL SOKOLOFF, 4 Steep Close, Orpington, Kent.